

The Book Of Chuang Tzu

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one of the great founders of taoism chaung tzu lived in the fourth century bc and is among the most enjoyable and intriguing personalities in the whole of chinese philosophy this work draws together the stories tales jokes and anecdotes that have gathered around the figure of chuang tzu

zhuangzi the book of chuang tzu this edition this text contains the seven inner chapters the fifteen outer chapters and the eleven other

chapters of a collection of works known as the zhuangzi the title being the name of the author zhuangzi chuang tzu alongside the tao te ching the zhuangzi is considered a fundamental text of the taoist tradition the english text has been translated from the french a dual language book project 2language books

generally regarded as one of the foremost works of philosophy in any language this important book by a brilliant chinese philosopher and one of taoism s founding fathers has exerted a profound influence on chinese thought and led to the development of zen buddhism this new edition contains a number of the most relevant and accessible selections from that great classic

classic writings from the great zen master in exquisite versions by thomas merton in a new edition with a preface by his holiness the dalai lama working from existing translations thomas merton composed a series of his own versions of the classic sayings of chuang tzu the most spiritual of chinese philosophers chuang tzu who wrote in the fourth and third centuries b c is the chief authentic historical spokesperson for taoism and its founder lao tzu a legendary character known largely through chuang tzu s writings indeed it was because of chuang tzu and the other taoist sages that indian buddhism was transformed in china into the unique vehicle we now call by its japanese name zen the chinese sage abounds in wit and paradox and shattering insights into the true ground of being thomas merton no stranger to asian thought brings a vivid modern idiom to the timeless wisdom of tao

this book offers a fundamentally new interpretation of the philosophy of the chuang tzu it is the first full length work of its kind which argues that a deep level cognitive structure exists beneath an otherwise random collection of literary anecdotes cryptic sayings and dark allusions the author carefully analyzes myths legends monstrous characters paradoxes parables and linguistic puzzles as strategically placed techniques for systematically tapping and channeling the spiritual dimensions of the mind allinson takes issue with commentators who have treated the chuang tzu as a minor foray into relativism chapter titles are re translated textual fragments are relocated and inauthentic outer miscellaneous chapters are carefully separated from the transformatory message of the authentic inner chapters each of the inner chapters is shown to be a building block to the next so that they can only be understood as forming a developmental sequence in the end the reader is presented with a clear consistent and coherent view of the chuang tzu that is more in accord with its stature as a major philosophical work

this book reprints an ancient chinese work from the late warring states period 3rd century bc that contains stories and anecdotes exemplifying the carefree nature of the ideal taoist sage chuang tzu s philosophy represents the main current of taoist teachings and his text is widely regarded as both deeply insightful and a great achievement in the chinese poetical essay form the version presented was translated by feng yu lan the famous chinese philosopher who puts more emphasis on chuang tzu s philosophy than do previous attempts william james once said that every great philosopher has a personal vision when one has grasped that vision the whole system can be easily understood and croc® once said that the greater a philosophical system is the simpler the central idea although the present translation is limited to the first seven chapters of chuang tzu s writings it accurately conveys his main vision and ideas

the outer chapters of chuang tzu this text contains the fifteen outer chapters of a collection of works known as the zhuangzi the title being the name of the author zhuangzi chuang tzu alongside the tao te ching the zhuangzi is considered a fundamental text of the taoist tradition the english text has been translated from the french

the chuang tzu is one of the key foundational works of chinese daoism preaching non contention non intention simplicity and humility as the path to perfect equanimity amidst life s turmoil the master chang tzu pursues this teaching via humour and historic parable a deep book of many levels that will repay reading on a regular basis

chuang tzu considered along with lao tzu one of the great figures of early taoist thought used parables and anecdotes allegory and paradox to illustrate that real happiness and freedom are found only in understanding the tao or way of nature and dwelling in its unity the respected trappist monk thomas merton spent several years reading and reflecting upon four different translations of the chinese classic that bears chuang tzu s name the result is this collection of poetic renderings of the great sage s work that conveys its spirit in a way no other translation has and that was merton s personal favorite among his more than fifty books both prose and verse are included here as well as a short section from merton discussing the most salient themes of chuang tzu s teachings

the other chapters of chuang tzu this text contains the eleven other chapters of a collection of works known as the zhuangzi the title being

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this book consists of a large collection of anecdotes allegories parables and fables which are often humorous or irreverent in nature its main themes are of spontaneity in action and of freedom from the human world and its conventions the fables and anecdotes in the text attempt to illustrate the falseness of human distinctions between good and bad large and small life and death and human and nature while other philosophers wrote of moral and personal duty chuang tzu zhuangzi promoted carefree wandering and becoming one with the way dao by following nature though primarily known as a philosophical work the zhuangzi is regarded as one of the greatest literary works in all of chinese history and has been called the most important pre qin text for the study of chinese literature a masterpiece of both philosophical and literary skill it has significantly influenced writers for more than 2000 years from the han dynasty to the present

in this volume roth presents an edited version of these notes along with other essays on the text philosophy and translation of this beloved taoist classic he concludes the volume with a colophon in which he presents a critique of graham s textual scholarship and an attempt to resolve several outstanding text historical issues a complete bibliography of graham s publications and a detailed index are also included book jacket

chuang tzu is not only the important carriers of philosophy and culture but also the wisdom crystallization of ancient sage philosophy on literature aesthetics art fantasy imagination ingenious conception colorful world of thought and literary artistic conception free and unrestrained style of writing romantic artistic style magnificent and treacherous it is the model works of the article it has a profound influence on the development of chinese literature and aesthetics

chuang tzu examines the nature of existence in these dialogues and essays from the battle to grasp the purpose of life to the search for knowledge a collection of some of the most absorbing and charming philosophy ever written the tao of nature is also about perfection perception the value of skills and the truth revealed by complete understanding great ideas throughout history some books have changed the

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